



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HII-109

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.) Examiner: Mark A. Deuble
)
Serial No.: 10/712,405) Group Art Unit: 3651
)
Filed: November 13, 2003) Our Customer ID: 22827
)
Confirmation No.: 6837) Our Account No. 04-1403
)
For: Conveyor With Gear Mechanism Gripper)
 And Related Conveyor Link)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The attached Information Disclosure Statement is submitted for the Examiner's consideration in accordance with the Applicants' duty of disclosure. Although the documents provided in this Information Disclosure Statement are submitted for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants do not admit of their relevance as prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 nor of their pertinence in other respects.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his/her convenience should he/she have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.A.

Date: December 28, 2004



Jeffrey M. Karmilovich
Reg. No.: 35,915
Post Office Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602-1449
Telephone: (864) 271-1592
Facsimile: (864) 233-7342



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In re Application of: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.

Attorney Docket No: HII-109

Serial No: 10/712,405

Date: December 28, 2004

Filed: November 13, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3651

Confirmation No: 6837

Our Customer ID: 22827

Title: Conveyor With Gear Mechanism Gripper and
Related Conveyor Link

Our Account No: 04-1403

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is an Information Disclosure Statement for the captioned patent application, pursuant to 37 CFR Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98.

1.[x] Attached hereto is:

- a.[x] A list of materials for consideration per Rule 98(a)(1): 5 page(s)
- b.[] A legible copy of each patent, publication, or other item listed per Rule 98(1)(2), unless not required per Rule 98 and/or as indicated on the attached list(s):
 item(s)
- c. [] For each non-English language item listed, pursuant to Rule 98(a)(3), a concise explanation of the relevance thereof as it is presently understood by the individual designated in Rule 56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of such items: _____

[] Such explanation is provided in the Search Report from a corresponding application enclosed herewith along with any enclosed translation into English.

2.[X] This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed [CHECK ONE]:

- a.[X] WITHIN THREE MONTHS of the application filing date, national stage date of entry, or along with or after a request for continued examination, OR BEFORE the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, which ever event occurs last, WHEREFORE per Rule 97(b) NO filing fee or Rule 97(e) certificate is required.
- b. [] AFTER the time periods of section 2.a above, but BEFORE a Final Action, Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution, WHEREFORE PER Rule 97(c) submitted herewith is [CHECK ONE]:
 - i. [] Certification per Rule 97(e); OR
 - ii[] Filing Fee per Rule 17(p)\$180.00
- c. [] AFTER a Final Action OR Notice of Allowance, but BEFORE payment of the issue fee, WHEREFORE per Rule 97(d) submitted herewith is:
 - i. Certification per Rule 97(e); AND
 - ii. Filing fee per Rule 17(p)\$180.00

3.[] Rule 97(e) Certification; per Rule 97(e), the undersigned certifying party make the following certification statement [CHECK ONE]:

- a.[] That each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR
- b. [] That no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in Rule 56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

CERTIFYING PARTY (if different from bottom signature; omission here indicates that certification is being made by signer per signature below).

Name: _____
Address: _____

Signature: _____
Date: _____

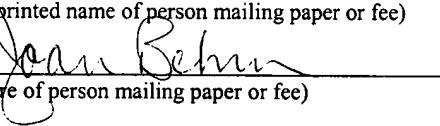
- 4.[x] DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any fees in addition to the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account No. shown in the heading hereof for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached. This statement does not authorize charge of the issue fee in this case.
- 5.[x] CERTIFICATE OF MAILING: This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to [CHECK AND COMPLETE ONE]:

a.[X] First Class Mail Certificate of Mailing under Rule 8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any referenced attachment and/or fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on December 28, 2004.

Joan Behm
(Typed/printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

b.[] "Express Mail" Certificate under Rule 10:

"Express Mail" – Label No. _____
Date of Deposit _____

I hereby certify that this paper and all attachments and any fee are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the:

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

(Typed/printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

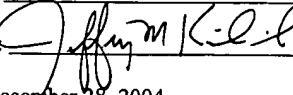
ADDRESS:

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

Post Office Box 1449
Greenville, South Carolina 29602
Telephone: 864-271-1592
Facsimile: 864-233-7342

By: Jeffrey M. Karmilovich

Reg. No: 35,915

Signature: 

Date: December 28, 2004

DEC 3 0 2004



(Rev. 5/92) Information Disclosure Statement List By Applicant(s) Under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a) (1) (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket Number:	Serial Number:
	HII-109	10/712,405
	Applicant: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.	
	Filing Date: November 13, 2003 Confirmation No: 6837	Group Art Unit: 3751

NOTE: If no indication is made in the column marked "COPY NOTE," the required legible copy of the corresponding item is submitted herewith; otherwise, a copy is not required and/or not submitted, for the following reason(s) [corresponding reason number is listed in "COPY NOTE" column]

- (1) This item is cumulative, per Rule 98(c)
- (2) A copy of this item was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in:
 - USSN _____, filed _____, or
 - USSN _____, filed _____;
 Relied on under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, per Rule 98(d)
- (3) Both reasons (1) and (2) apply
- (4) No legible complete copy is possessed, in custody of controlled, or readily available
- (5) Per the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's waiver of Rule 98(a)(2)(i), the item is a U.S. patent or patent application publication, and the present application was filed after June 30, 2003.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	PATENTEE NAME	PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	COPY NOTE
	Cunning	7	6	6	3	2	9		08/1904	5
	Phelps	1	0	5	8	0	9	6	04/1913	5
	Pittaluga	2	2	7	0	7	0	9	05/1940	5
	Taylor	2	6	1	1	5	2	4	09/1952	5
	Minard	2	6	6	5	6	4		01/1954	5
	Webb, et al.	3	5	1	9	1	0	8	07/1968	5
	Campbell, et al.	3	7	4	2	9	8	9	07/1973	5
	Cayton	3	8	2	6	2	9	3	07/1974	5
	Ferrero, et al.	4	0	5	3	0	0	3	10/1977	5
	Riggs, et al.	4	0	9	6	9	3	9	06/1978	5
	Hartness, et al.	4	1	2	6	1	6	3	11/1978	5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	TRANSLATION			COPY NOTE
				YES	NO	N/A	

**NO means that no copy of an English language translation is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in Rule 56(c).

EXAMINER INITIALS	OTHER DOCUMENTS			COPY NOTE
	Specify author (if any), Title, Pertinent Pages, Date & Place of Publication			
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2001/0002532	06/2001		5
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2001/0052216	12/2001		5
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0139436	10/2001		5
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.				

(Rev. 5/92) Information Disclosure Statement List By Applicant(s) Under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a)(1) (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket Number:	Serial Number:
	HII-109	10/712,405
	Applicant: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.	
	Filing Date: November 13, 2003	Group Art Unit: 3751 Confirmation No: 6837

NOTE: If no indication is made in the column marked "COPY NOTE," the required legible copy of the corresponding item is submitted herewith; otherwise, a copy is not required and/or not submitted, for the following reason(s) [corresponding reason number is listed in "COPY NOTE" column]

- (1) This item is cumulative, per Rule 98(c)
- (2) A copy of this item was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in:
 - USSN _____, filed _____, or
 - USSN _____, filed _____;
 Relied on under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, per Rule 98(d)
- (3) Both reasons (1) and (2) apply
- (4) No legible complete copy is possessed, in custody or controlled, or readily available
- (5) Per the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's waiver of Rule 98(a)(2)(i), the item is a U.S. patent or patent application publication, and the present application was filed after June 30, 2003.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	PATENTEE NAME	PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	COPY NOTE
	Peronek	4	3	3	5	7	6	1	06/1982	5
	Minard	4	5	2	2	2	3	8	06/1985	5
	Leonard	4	5	3	2	9	6	8	08/1985	5
	Fogg, et al.	4	5	6	7	9	1	9	02/1986	5
	Leonard	4	5	8	8	0	0	1	05/1986	5
	Zodrow, et al.	4	6	9	7	6	9	1	10/1987	5
	Kovara	5	0	2	9	6	9	5	07/1991	5
	Herzog	5	0	3	5	2	7	0	07/1991	5
	Ziegler, et al.	5	0	5	2	1	6	6	10/1991	5
	McDowell	5	0	7	4	1	0	3	12/1991	5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	TRANSLATION			COPY NOTE
				YES	NO	N/A	

*"NO" means that no copy of an English language translation is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in Rule 56(c).

EXAMINER INITIALS	OTHER DOCUMENTS Specify author (if any), Title, Pertinent Pages, Date & Place of Publication	COPY NOTE
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0000969	01/2003
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0075547	04/2003
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0106779	06/2003
	U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0116222	06/2003
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
Examiner:	initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.	

(Rev. 5/92) Information Disclosure Statement List By Applicant(s) Under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a) (1) (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket Number: HII-109 Applicant: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.	Serial Number: 10/712,405
	Filing Date: November 13, 2003 Confirmation No: 6837	Group Art Unit: 3751

NOTE:

If no indication is made in the column marked "COPY NOTE," the required legible copy of the corresponding item is submitted herewith; otherwise, a copy is not required and/or not submitted, for the following reason(s) [corresponding reason number is listed in "COPY NOTE" column]

- (1) This item is cumulative, per Rule 98(c)
- (2) A copy of this item was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in:

USSN _____, filed _____, or
USSN _____, filed _____;
- (3) Relied on under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, per Rule 98(d)
- (4) Both reasons (1) and (2) apply
- (4) No legible complete copy is possessed, in custody of controlled, or readily available
- (5) Per the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's waiver of Rule 98(a)(2)(i), the item is a U.S. patent or patent application publication, and the present application was filed after June 30, 2003.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	PATENTEE NAME	PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	COPY NOTE
	Gentile	5	2	9	5	5	2	3	03/1994	5
	Focke, et al.	5	4	8	7	4	6	1	01/1996	5
	Håkansson, et al.	5	5	2	2	4	3	9	06/1996	5
	Lagneau	5	5	9	5	2	2	1	01/1997	5
	Müller	5	6	4	2	6	0	4	07/1997	5
	Müller	5	6	5	7	6	1	5	08/1997	5
	Hawley	5	7	7	5	0	6	7	07/1998	5
	Weaver, et al.	5	7	7	8	6	3	4	07/1998	5
	Phallen	5	8	7	8	7	9	6	03/1999	5
	Tietz, et al.	5	9	6	0	8	3	8	10/1999	5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	TRANSLATION			COPY NOTE
				YES	NO	N/A	

*"NO" means that no copy of an English language translation is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in Rule 56(c).

EXAMINER INITIALS	OTHER DOCUMENTS Specify author (if any), Title, Pertinent Pages, Date & Place of Publication	COPY NOTE
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
Examiner: initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.		

(Rev. 5/92) Information Disclosure Statement List By Applicant(s) Under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a) (1) (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket Number: HII-109	Serial Number: 10/712,405
	Applicant: Thomas P. Hartness, et al.	
	Filing Date: November 13, 2003	Group Art Unit: 3751
	Confirmation No: 6837	

NOTE:

If no indication is made in the column marked "COPY NOTE," the required legible copy of the corresponding item is submitted herewith; otherwise, a copy is not required and/or not submitted, for the following reason(s) [corresponding reason number is listed in "COPY NOTE" column]

- (1) This item is cumulative, per Rule 98(c)
- (2) A copy of this item was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in:
 - USSN _____, filed _____, or
 - USSN _____, filed _____;
 Relied on under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, per Rule 98(d)
- (3) Both reasons (1) and (2) apply
- (4) No legible complete copy is possessed, in custody of controlled, or readily available
- (5) Per the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's waiver of Rule 98(a)(2)(i), the item is a U.S. patent or patent application publication, and the present application was filed after June 30, 2003.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	PATENTEE NAME	PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	COPY NOTE
	Reuteler	5	9	7	9	1	4	7	11/1999	5
	Weaver	5	7	6	8	8	6	0	06/1998	5
	Beringer	6	0	3	8	8	3	3	03/2000	5
	Spatafora, et al.	6	0	5	0	0	6	0	04/2000	5
	Benner, Jr., et al.	6	1	1	9	4	4	0	09/2000	5
	Hart, et al.	6	1	4	1	9	4	3	11/2000	5
	Fukui, et al.	6	1	4	8	5	8	9	11/2000	5
	Paradies	6	2	5	3	8	0	9	07/2001	5
	Ellison	6	2	7	6	4	0	9	08/2001	5
	Dumargue	6	3	3	4	4	7	3	01/2002	5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	TRANSLATION			COPY NOTE
				YES	NO	N/A	

*"NO" means that no copy of an English language translation is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in Rule 56(c).

EXAMINER INITIALS	OTHER DOCUMENTS Specify author (if any), Title, Pertinent Pages, Date & Place of Publication	COPY NOTE
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
Examiner: initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.		

(Rev. 5/92)	Attorney Docket Number:	Serial Number:
Information Disclosure Statement List	HII-109	10/712,405
By Applicant(s)	Applicant:	
Under 37 CFR Section 1.98(a) (1)	Thomas P. Hartness, et al.	
(Use several sheets if necessary)	Filing Date: November 13, 2003	Group Art Unit:
	3751	
	Confirmation No: 6837	

NOTE:

If no indication is made in the column marked "COPY NOTE," the required legible copy of the corresponding item is submitted herewith; otherwise, a copy is not required and/or not submitted, for the following reason(s) [corresponding reason number is listed in "COPY NOTE" column]

- (1) This item is cumulative, per Rule 98(c)
- (2) A copy of this item was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in:
USSN _____, filed _____, or
USSN _____, filed _____;
- (3) Relied on under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, per Rule 98(d)
- (4) Both reasons (1) and (2) apply
- (4) No legible complete copy is possessed, in custody of controlled, or readily available
- (5) Per the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's waiver of Rule 98(a)(2)(i), the item is a U.S. patent or patent application publication, and the present application was filed after June 30, 2003.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIALS		PATENTEE NAME		PATENT NUMBER						ISSUE DATE	COPY NOTE	
		Reinecke		6	3	4	1	6	3	0	01/2002	5
		Reinecke		6	3	4	3	6	2	8	02/2002	5
		Clüsserath, et al.		6	4	7	4	3	6	8	11/2002	5
		Sindermann		6	4	9	4	2	3	8	12/2002	5
		De Guglielmo, et al.		6	5	2	0	3	1	6	02/2003	5
		Servadei		6	5	8	1	6	5	3	06/2003	5

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
EXAMINER INITIALS		COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER				PUBLICATION DATE	TRANSLATION		COPY NOTE
								YES	NO	N/A

*"NO" means that no copy of an English language translation is within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in Rule 56(c).

EXAMINER INITIALS	OTHER DOCUMENTS Specify author (if any), Title, Pertinent Pages, Date & Place of Publication	COPY NOTE
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
Examiner: initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.		